

**§ 31.163 Requirements when a wholesale dealer in liquors maintains a retail department.**

(a) *Constructive receipt and sale.* When a wholesale dealer in liquors maintains a separate department on the premises for the retailing of distilled spirits, and the retail sales of distilled spirits normally represent 90 percent or more of the volume of distilled spirits sold, the dealer may “constructively” receive all distilled spirits in the retail department. Sales involving a wholesale transaction may be “constructively” sold through the wholesale department.

(1) *Receipts.* In lieu of maintaining and preparing the records required by § 31.155, a wholesale dealer may constructively receive all distilled spirits in its retail department. In this case, the receiving document will serve as a receipt for (through) the wholesale department and a disposition (transfer) to the retail department. The receiving document must be maintained by the retail department in accordance with § 31.171.

(2) *Dispositions.* In lieu of maintaining and preparing the records required by § 31.156, a wholesale dealer may constructively sell distilled spirits from its retail department to other dealers. The sales invoice or bill must be filed in the wholesaler’s disposition records and will serve as a record of receipt from the retail department and a record of disposition to another dealer.

(b) *Receipt and disposition records.* Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, a wholesale dealer must prepare and maintain the required records of receipt and disposition as prescribed in §§ 31.155 and 31.156. Transfers between the wholesale and retail departments will be treated in the same manner as any other transaction involving the wholesale department.

(c) *Monthly summary report.* When required by § 31.160, a wholesale dealer must prepare and file the monthly summary report of actual or constructive receipts and dispositions of all distilled spirits.

(d) *Physical separation.* Wholesale and retail departments need not be physically separated.

(26 U.S.C. 5121)

FILING OF WHOLESALE DEALERS’  
RECORDS AND REPORTS

**§ 31.171 Method of filing.**

A wholesale dealer may file the records of receipt and disposition required by §§ 31.155 and 31.156 in accordance with the wholesaler’s regular accounting and recordkeeping systems. The required records must include the dealer’s own file copies of the receiving or shipping invoices and must be filed according to the following rules:

(a) Wholesale dealers may file records of receipt and disposition in accordance with their own filing system as long as the records are filed by transaction or reporting date and the filing system systematically and accurately accounts for all receipts and dispositions of distilled spirits.

(b) The required records of receipt and disposition must be filed not later than one business day following the date the transaction occurred.

(c) Supporting documents for receipts and dispositions, such as delivery receipts and bills of lading, also may be filed in accordance with the wholesaler’s regular accounting and recordkeeping practices.

(26 U.S.C. 5121, 5122, 5123)

**§ 31.172 Place of filing.**

Records of receipt and disposition and monthly summary reports required by §§ 31.155, 31.156, and 31.160 must be maintained at the dealer’s place of business. The appropriate TTB officer may, upon request, authorize maintenance of files, or an individual file, at another business location under the control of the same wholesale dealer, when it is determined that such maintenance will not cause undue inconvenience to TTB officers desiring to examine those files.

(26 U.S.C. 5123)

RETAIL DEALER’S RECORDS

**§ 31.181 Requirements for retail dealers.**

(a) *Records of receipt.* All retail dealers must keep at their place of business complete records showing the quantities of all distilled spirits, wines, and beer received, from whom the distilled

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spirits, wines, and beer were received, and the dates of receipt. However, the appropriate TTB officer may, upon request, authorize the maintenance of records at another business premises also under the control of the same retail dealer when it is determined that such maintenance will not cause undue inconvenience to TTB officers desiring to examine those records. Records of receipts shall consist of all purchase invoices or bills covering distilled spirits, wines, and beer received, or, at the option of the retail dealer, a book record containing all of the required information.

(b) *Records of sales of 20 wine gallons (75.7 liters) or more.* Every retail dealer who makes sales of distilled spirits, of wines, or of beer in quantities of 20 wine gallons (75.7 liters) or more to the same person at the same time must prepare and keep a record of each sale. The record must show the date of sale, the name and address of the purchaser, the kind and quantity of each kind of liquors sold, and the serial numbers of all full cases of distilled spirits included in the sale. Each entry on that record must be supported by a corresponding delivery receipt (which may be executed on a copy of the sales slip) signed by the purchaser or the purchaser's agent.

(26 U.S.C. 5122, 5123)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1513-0066)

### RETENTION OF RECORDS AND FILES

#### §31.191 Period of retention.

All records and files, all documents or copies of documents supporting these records and files, and all file copies of reports, submitted as required by this part, must be retained by the person required to have them, for a period of not less than three years and, during the retention period, must be available, during business hours, for inspection and copying by the appropriate TTB officers. In addition, the appropriate TTB officer may require retention of the documents and other records for an additional period of not more than three years if it is determined that such additional retention is necessary.

(26 U.S.C. 5123)

## 27 CFR Ch. I (4-1-10 Edition)

#### §31.192 Photographic copies of records.

(a) *General.* Dealers may record, copy, or reproduce records required by this part. Dealers may use any process that accurately reproduces the original record and that forms a durable medium for preserving the original record.

(b) *Copies of records treated as original records.* Whenever records are reproduced under this section, the reproduced records must be preserved in conveniently accessible files, and provision must be made for examining, viewing, and using the reproduced record in the same manner as if it were the original record. A reproduced record will be treated and considered for all purposes as though it were the original record. All provisions of law and regulations applicable to the original record are applicable to the reproduced record. As used in this section, "original record" means the record required by this part to be maintained or preserved by a dealer, even though it may be an executed duplicate or other copy of the document.

(26 U.S.C. 5555)

### Subpart K—Reuse and Possession of Used Liquor Bottles

#### §31.201 Refilling of liquor bottles.

No person who sells, or offers for sale, distilled spirits, or agent or employee of such person, shall:

(a) Place in any liquor bottle any distilled spirits whatsoever other than those contained in that bottle at the time of closing under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. chapter 51; or

(b) By the addition of any substance whatsoever to any liquor bottle, in any manner alter or increase any portion of the original contents contained in that bottle at the time of closing under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. chapter 51.

(26 U.S.C. 5301)

#### §31.202 Possession of refilled liquor bottles.

No person who sells, or offers for sale, distilled spirits, or agent or employee of such person, shall:

(a) Possess any liquor bottle in which any distilled spirits have been placed